False Charges of Rape Keep Sex Squad on Go

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When the 14 detectives on the Metropolitan Police Sex Squad report to headquarters each day, they know they are likely to spend most of their time investigating crimes that never occurred.

"If only we worked in the Homicide Squad, where they've at least got a corpse," one of them said yesterday.

For every complaint of rape on which they build a case they can send to court, they have to check out anywhere from one to nine others in which evidence of criminal assault is lacking.

In April, for example, they received 89 complaints of rape, of which only 33 turned out to be cases that could be prosecuted.

A recent case that appeared to be sound fell through when the complainant, Bernice Chambers, 21, of 640 Morris pl. ne., admitted at a pretrial hearing for Jerry Fay, 19, of 713 6th st. ne., that she had consented to his advances Christmas Eve.

Although the Sex Squad rarely takes action against women who file false complaints, feeling many of these women already are emotionally disturbed, Miss Chambers' allegations had cost Ray 110 days in jail.

So they charged her with submitting a false report and she was sentenced on Saturday to ten days in jail.

Sex Squad detectives are accustomed to hearing fantastic stories from women who have a variety of motives for falsely claiming they have been attacked.

Complainants with false

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False Charges Of Rape Ties Up Sex Squad

stories have included a teenager whose curfew was 11 p.m. and whose mother demanded to know why she did not get home until after midnight. And a military wife who found herself two months' pregnant six months after her husband left for Vietnam.

The teenager, detectives said, was trying to escape a scolding and did not expect her mother to call police. The military wife wanted to have a police report to show her husband when he returned home to a baby that was not his.

Brought by Others

Most women who tell the Sex Squad false stories are brought to police by their husbands, boy friends, employers or parents—in that order.

Others appear voluntarily while having second thoughts about a hasty liaison, detectives said, because rape complainants are taken to a hospital for a dilation and curettage that prevents pregnancy.

When those women forced by relatives or friends to complain to police repeat their stories to the Sex Squad, detectives frequently expose their frauds in quick order, such as asking a woman who said she was blindfolded throughout the attack how she could give such a complete description of the rapist and of the knife she claimed he held against her throat.

A Case in Point

Finding a rapist often is easier than finding out whether a rape really took place.

In a recent case, detectives said, a 21-year-old woman from Philadelphia came to Washington to visit her fiance on a bus that arrived at 10 p.m. She didn't show up at his house until about 4 a.m. and answered his questions with a tale about being raped by the taxi driver who picked her up at the depot. She even provided his name and hack permit number.

Called in for questioning by the Sex Squad, the cabbie readily admitted necking with the woman and even disrobing her, but denied having sexual intercourse or using force.

"Had To Have Excuse"

A detective took the driver's manifest, which showed that he had transported four passengers during the time he was with the Philadelphian. He checked each of the addresses to which the cabbie had delivered the four and found the passengers in perfect agreement that the woman was riding in the front seat with her are around the driver, cuddling and cooing. Some passengers assumed they were newlyweds.

Confronted with this evidence, the woman admitted she had lied, "but I had to make some excuse or my engagement would be broken."